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— *guide* —

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Recently this first date had a 20 min convo about farts.

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WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?: A gift card to Applebees.

WHAT'S THE WORST DATE YOU'VE EVER WITNESSED?:
Dude got bailed on when his date went "to the bathroom."
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OF THE WEEK

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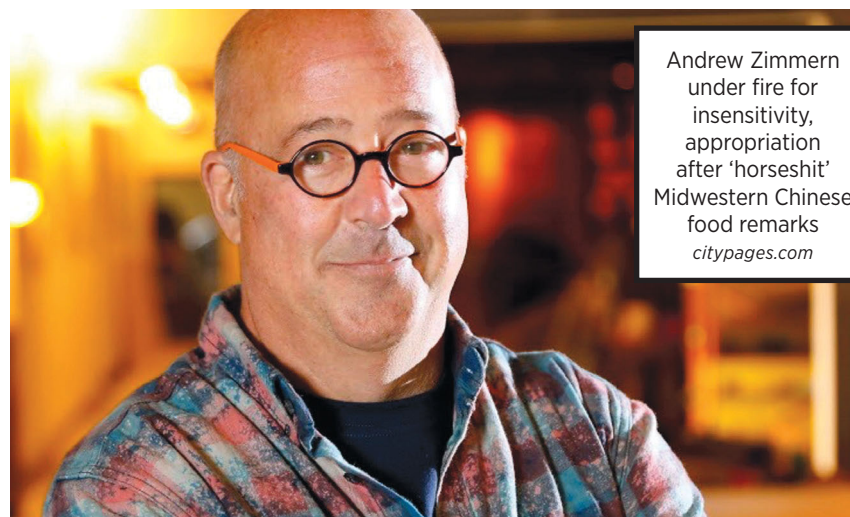
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THE SHORTLIST



Andrew Zimmern under fire for insensitivity, appropriation after 'horseshit' Midwestern Chinese food remarks
citypages.com

LEILA NAVIDI

THE STAT SHEET

36,000

Pounds of potatoes donated by Edling Farms for Thanksgiving dinner at the Union Gospel Mission in St. Paul

\$5 million

Value of liens for unpaid labor filed against Donald Trump's new hotel in Washington, D.C.

4th

The Twin Cities' ranking among the nation's worst metro areas for black people, according to 24/7 Wall Street

6,420

Number of lies told by Trump during the first 649 days of his presidency, according to the Washington Post

"Once our country decided that children being shot in classrooms is acceptable collateral damage, that was the end of any reasonable discussion."

Reader Chad Medrow responds to "After blue wave, can Minnesota finally have gun control? Please?" at citypages.com.

BIG HEARTS

WITHIN THE SEEMING thunderstorm of heart-wrenching news, here is your rainbow:

Hunter Shamatt was flying from South Dakota to his sister's wedding in Las Vegas when he lost his wallet with \$60 inside. A few days later, he received a package that held his wallet and a letter. The anonymous sender explained that he'd found it between the seats on another flight.

The returned wallet not only contained all of Hunter's money, credit cards, etc., but an extra \$40. The Good Samaritan urged Hunter to use it to celebrate being reunited with his possessions.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

'TWERKEY CAKE'

quickly sells out at Minnesota bakery Nadia Cakes

St. Paul **CHIPOTLE** manager who was fired for refusing service gets her job back

To the **WOMAN WITH THE TISSUES** in Terminal 2: Thank you

Cities 97.1 morning host **KERI NOBLE** is leaving Twin Cities radio

Following insults and threats, progressives oust the **OLD GUARD** in West. St. Paul

A VERY SCARY WOMAN

Conservatives claim Ilhan Omar is plotting to enslave the white man

Watch Ilhan Omar for any length of time, and you'll find her smiley, soft-spoken, with a fine measure of understated determination. At least that's a reasonable person's takeaway.

Yet "reasonable" and "conservatism" are not often used in the same sentence these days. Especially when the subject is Muslim. And a woman. And about to represent the fair city of Minneapolis in the hallowed halls of Congress.

Scramble these few facts together, and her very being can be reduced to one word: dastardly.

In two months, Omar will become the first Muslim woman—along with Michigan's Rashida Tlaib—to enter Congress. Though she has yet to even set her sails, conspiracies and falsehoods are already being attached to her name.

The latest is a most diabolical plot blazing across Facebook and Twitter. It shows a photo of Omar, accompanied by her purported quote: "I think all white men should be put in chains as slaves because they will never submit to Islam."

Forget, for a moment, that she never actually said this. Or the folly of a predominantly white district giving 78 percent of its vote to someone who holds these beliefs. Or the probability of a diminutive woman from Minneapolis enslaving 77 percent of the U.S. population.

These are days where a good chunk of the conservative base doesn't bother with trifling matters like research and logic. The great patriots were ready to believe.

"Bring it bitch," wrote the fearless R Wolfe (@WhoWolfe).

"Won't be hard to take out a jihadi swines. Bring it on terrorist," added the manly @kevin587107.



The new congresswoman is stirring up imagined evils.

JIM MONEM

As Omar prepares to assume office in January, this is what she will face. Fortunately, the Minnesota Republican Party has prepared her for the coming deluge of weirdness. Think of it as her unofficial personal trainer, working her through the latest and greatest anti-Muslim tropes, so she won't be caught unaware when she takes the big stage.

You may recall how Senate candidate Jim Newberger feared that Minnesota would come to be ruled by Sharia Law, and that whites would be barred from Muslim "no-go" zones. Or how state Representatives

Kathy Lohmer (R-Stillwater) and Cindy Pugh (R-Chanhassen) trafficked in claims that Muslims were trying to "infiltrate" the GOP caucuses. Or how Republican caucusgoers in Coon Rapids entertained a resolution to "eliminate the influence of Islam within the Minnesota Republican Party."

So go forth, Ilhan, and face the blizzard of slurs, half-wittery, and shouts from people still struggling to take command of English as their first language. We hope we trained you well. And if you ever need a refresher course, your friends back home will be happy to provide it. —PETE KOTZ



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Meet the New Kids

The impressive class of 2018 in the Minnesota House

Get ready to fall in love. With few exceptions, Minnesota went deep blue in the 2018 elections, chipping in two new U.S. House members and 18 DFLers in the statehouse.

Get to know them, and you'll find Minnesota's incoming crop of freshman is about as impressive as any single class in recent memory. Doctors, scientists, social workers, attorneys, people who've lived interesting and at times difficult lives. Adults who've overcome something.

Here are four. Be sure to keep track of their careers. They're going places.

Ruth Richardson, Inver Grove Heights:

She's been hustling behind the scenes for decades, fighting to get benefits for homeless veterans, fetal alcohol syndrome survivors, and people with disabilities.

She's also a lawyer, and vice-chair of the Minnesota Board of Social Work. Her work took her to the Capitol on many occasions, and it was working across party lines that convinced her she could become a "professional problem-solver."

She didn't make up her mind about running in this election until two weeks before her district's DFL convention; she won the endorsement anyway.

Her constituents are concerned about America's messy and costly health care systems, and they want their schools not only safer from gun violence, but fully funded. So does Richardson, a mother of two teens.

Her father was a Met Transit employee who was badly hurt at work. His union

protected his job and helped protect his medical benefits. Minnesota House members aren't organized in a union (they're barely organized as a caucus), but you'd better believe Richardson will be standing with poor workers over their rich employers.

Alice Mann, Lakeville:

Some people pronounce her name wrong upon introduction. They use the American pronunciation, but she's actually Brazilian (so it's ah-LEES, not AL-iss). As a girl, Mann emigrated to America with her parents and wound up in Richfield. Alice got interested in medicine, and has worked as a family care physician for more than a decade. In her spare time, she does volunteer medical care in poor or disaster-stricken foreign countries.

At home, she got fed up hearing from too many patients, people in pain or danger who couldn't afford treatment—or even understand how the whole jerry-rigged medical system works. (Answer: It often doesn't.)

"I'd get calls from insurance companies telling me that they weren't going to cover what I'd prescribed," Mann says, audibly frustrated.

She can recite our ranking for health outcomes off the top of her head ("the World Health Organization has us 36th"), and can shred conservative arguments about a "total takeover" of a person's health care decisions. There's "a lot of misinformation" out there, Mann observes, and people are rightly afraid of illness or a rough diagnosis.

In Alice Mann, the freshman class is ready to give patients a second opinion.

Hodan Hassan, Minneapolis:

She survived a grueling primary against four Democrats in a progressive south Minneapolis neighborhood. How'd she manage to win? She got on her feet and didn't stop moving, campaigning tirelessly until people started recognizing her on return trips to their doorsteps. "Even had a couple people put up signs saying, 'Please don't knock on our door again, Hodan, you already have our vote,'" Hassan says, laughing.

The neighborhood's a blended one, and African and Latino immigrants make up a big chunk of its population.

Hassan understands what those people are going through: She works in mental health and social work, and has struggled some herself. In 2017, she stopped watching TV news; what she was seeing every day was simply too upsetting, and she needed to shield herself from it to protect her psyche.

Now Hassan is the news, and happy to be serving with a big group of female lawmakers. She recently visited Rwanda's parliament and learned it's 64 percent female. She knows her seat's been held by a woman for 38 years (most recently by the groundbreaking lesbian Karen Clark) and is happy to carry that tradition on into 2019... and beyond.

Aisha Gomez, Minneapolis:

She doesn't talk like most legislators—be warned, old-timers, she knows how to use slang! Then again, her background is different from most legislators'.

Gomez's mom moved her three kids many times over, from Boston to Vermont, then to Minneapolis, where the family lived in



Mike Mullen

Riverside Plaza, a poverty-stricken and, in the 1990s, drug-addled part of town.

Gomez had close friends in the building involved in drugs and violence. "It was some shit," she recalls. "It was wild." She also saw abuse (drug and physical) at home, as her mom, a public school teacher, cycled through a run of less-worthy boyfriends before finding a second husband.

Growing up in the places she did exposed her to the sorts of people who need government services most, and are often hardest to serve. "Some of the people at the homeless encampment, I've known them half my life," she says. "I don't see any separation from them and myself. I'm not going to judge where someone ended up."

Gomez's proximity to poverty shaped her thinking as an activist and policy aide to Minneapolis Council Member Alondra Cano, who had Gomez putting her environmental science degree to work on lead paint and city sites damaged by pollution.

When she's not cracking wise, Gomez slips in lines like "Having access to this position, I know I have an obligation to do absolutely everything to show up for people I need in our world. Racial and economic and social justice is about healing, and restoration." About time, isn't it? **EP**

mmullen@citypages.com

Follow Mike on Twitter: @mikemullen_

Psychic Cynthia

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GIFTS & ENTERTAINMENT 2018



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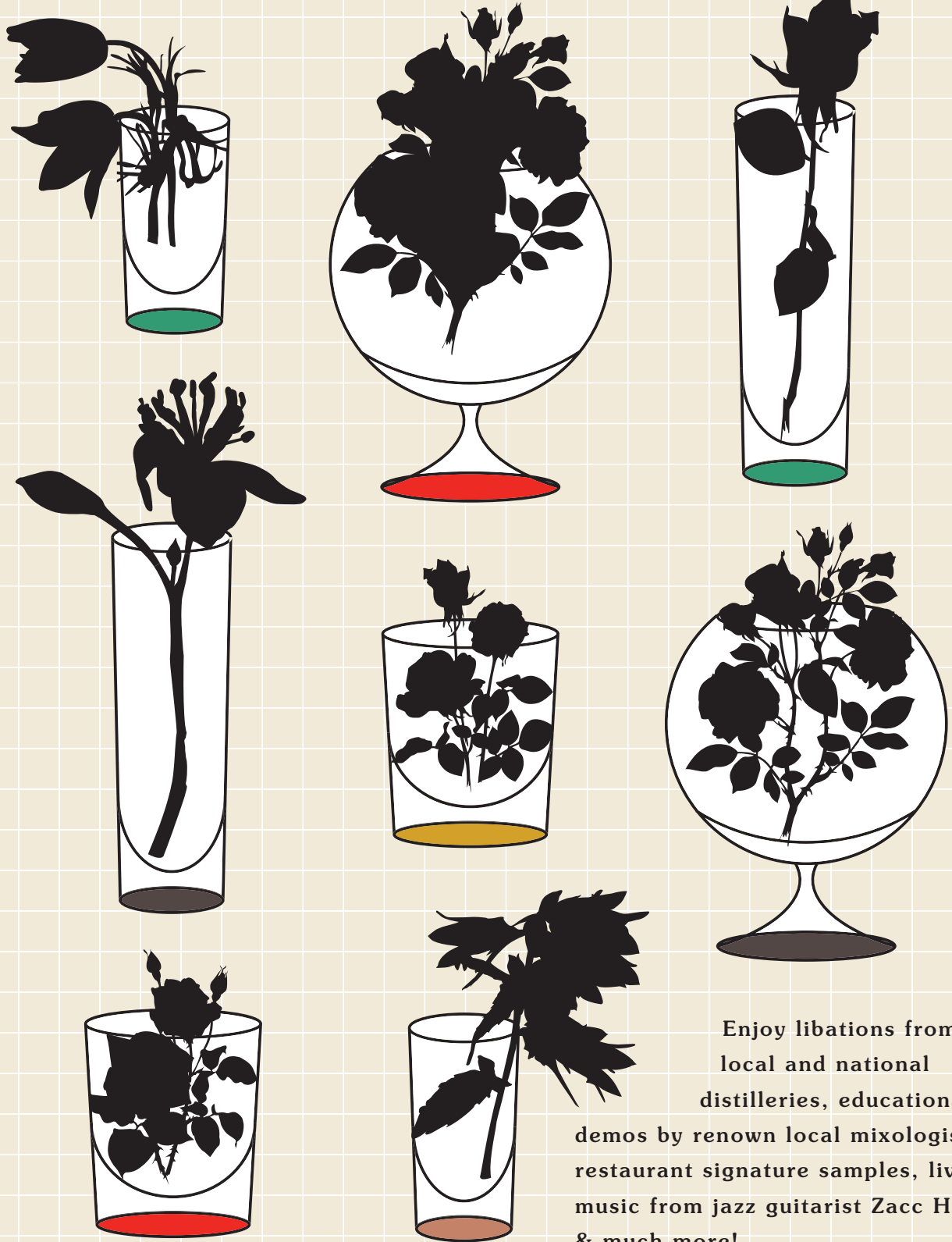
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The world can feel mighty small by the time February wraps its icy arms around our state. You leave the house less and less—cutting all frivolous trips down to a spare few—and your stack of books becomes ever more essential, a bulwark against cabin fever. We tapped local booksellers to get their advice on the best reads to stockpile for the winter months ahead. Below, find their picks for must-read titles in fiction and nonfiction, as well as some books with local ties.

FICTION

Early Riser

by Jasper Fforde, Viking, 2019

In an alternate version of our world, humanity has survived throughout history by hibernating during the extremely cold winter months. Charlie Worthing is a new recruit to the Winter Consuls, one of the small number who stay awake through the season to protect the slumbering population. When a series of mishaps—or are they?—brings Charlie to wild, rural Sector 12 instead of the relative safety of Cardiff, he must navigate the season's absurdities, dangers, villains, Wintervolk, corporate conspiracies... and a viral dream that's intruding on reality.

"This offbeat adventure (from the author of *The Eyre Affair*) isn't available until February, but it is the definition of winter reading! A wintry romp full of satire, silliness, and chills, perfect for curling up with to lighten a bleak Minnesota winter day." —Recommended by Magers & Quinn staff

November Road

by Lou Berney,
HarperCollins, 2018

Frank Guidry is a New Orleans mobster who knows too much; Charlotte Roy is a housewife and mother on the run from a drunk husband and a dead-end life. From the author of *The Long and Faraway Gone*, this new release is a love story and a cat-and-mouse chase set against the backdrop of one of the most significant moments in American history: the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Berney wields the power of historical fiction, gritty crime thriller, and romance in a genre-defying story that grips the reader.

"Berney is a wonderful storyteller. I usually would not pick up anything to do with the JFK assassination, but this book is just brilliant." —Recommended by Devin Abraham, manager, *Once Upon A Crime*

The Comedown

by Rebekah Frumkin
Henry Holt and Co., 2018

A scrappy heroin dealer and an obsequious addict in Cleveland are forever linked when a drug deal goes terribly wrong. The

tragic moment sets off a chain of events that changes the lives of both of their families, spanning generations. Rebekah Frumkin's dark comedy takes us across America from the Kent State shootings to the Florida Everglades, while weaving in questions of racial, religious, and class identity.

"Sprawling multi-generational mystery? Check! Complicated feelings about the Midwest? Check! Acid-fueled fight between millennial and baby boomer?

Check!" —Recommended by Will Sheffer & Heidi Birchler, booksellers, Moon Palace Books

Her Body and Other Parties

by Carmen Maria Machado,
Graywolf Press, 2017

An electrifying collection of short stories, *Her Body and Other Parties* explores violence, queerness, and sexuality in ways that are at once perplexing and haunting, confounding and profound. Author Carmen Maria Machado plays with old wives' tales,

urban legends, and fables, leaving ample room for the reader to interpret what it all means.

"It was a tradition in Victorian England to read ghost stories around the holiday season, and I'm all for keeping that tradition alive. Spooky books are made for long winter nights, and Machado's short story collection explores feminist and queer themes. Each story is unsettling and strange in the best possible way." —Recommended by Megan, volunteer, Boneshaker Books

WINTER READING

— guide —

Books to thrill, inspire, amuse, and delight in the dark, cold days to come

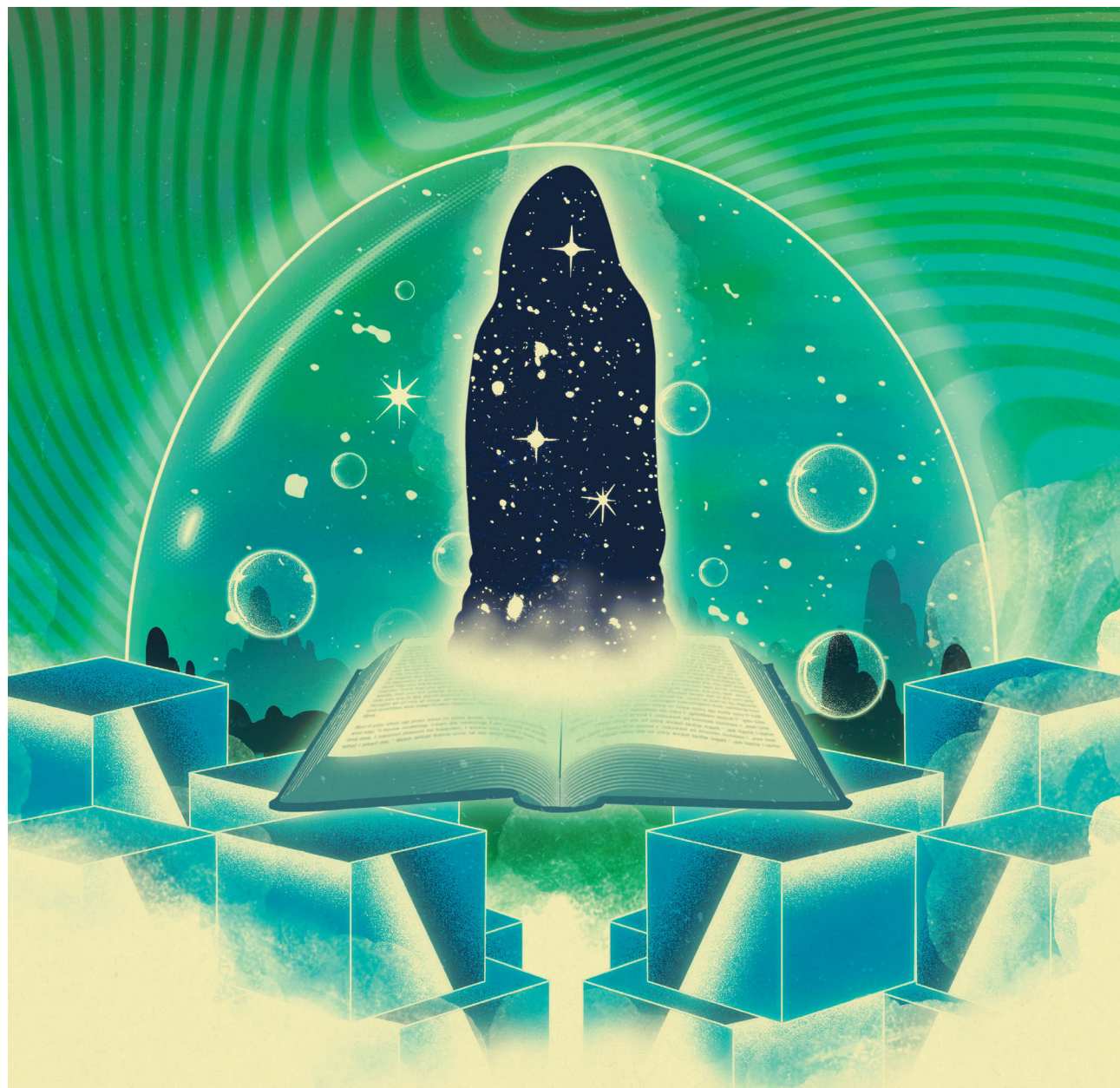
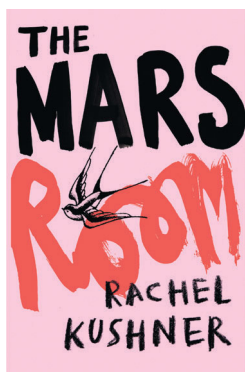


ILLUSTRATION BY JAIME ZUVERZA



The Mars Room

by Rachel Kushner, Jonathan Cape, 2018

Romy Hall has been sentenced to two consecutive life terms at a California women's correctional facility. *The Mars Room* leads us from her past as a lap dancer who murders her stalker, to her present, navigating the bitter reality of incarceration. All the while her future, now bleak, looms like a character in its own right. From the casual violence of guards to the survivalist mentality of Romy's fellow inmates, Rachel Kushner captures in perfect detail a life lived in lockup.

"*The Mars Room* is a poignant and memorable work, interweaving narratives from a women's prison in California. This book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize this year." —Recommended by Rebecca, volunteer, Boneshaker Books

There There

by Tommy Orange, Knopf, 2018

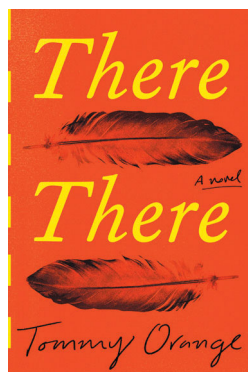
Twelve Native American characters navigate the urban landscape of Oakland, California in this debut novel by indigenous author Tommy Orange. What does it mean to be an "urban Indian"? Where is home when home feels foreign? *There There* is a meditation on identity that merges history with the here and now. "We are the memories we don't remember. We know the sound of the freeway better than we do rivers."

"Forceful, emotional, and utterly brilliant, the whole of the novel marches the characters toward an inevitable climax that imbues the story with incredible pace and power. This book is an absolute showstopper." —Recommended by Matt Keliher, manager and buyer, SubText Books

Check, Please!: #Hockey

by Ngozi Ukazu, First Second, 2018

Eric Bittle, formerly a junior figure skating champion in Georgia, is starting his freshman year playing hockey at a prestigious Massachusetts university. But unlike his co-ed club hockey back in the South, college hockey involves one defensive technique that has cost many a professional player their teeth: checking. *Check, Please!: #Hockey* is a coming-of-age graphic novel about friendship and finding yourself when you're far from home.



"You will be deeply charmed by the story of Eric Bittle, a pie-baking, Beyoncé-loving figure skater turned college hockey player, and his journey of identity as he moves through the uncertainty every college freshman experiences. This graphic novel is a joy!" —Recommended by Katie McGinley and Heather Albinson, booksellers, Wild Rumpus Books

Death to the Bullshit Artists of South Texas

by Fernando A. Flores, Host Publications, 2018

The rock bands of McAllen, Texas are destined for greatness—except that they always seem to fall apart before they get there. This group of short stories about the music scene of a small south Texas town invites us to reconsider the notion of success. By turns hapless and relatable, the musicians in these stories ultimately convey creativity as an invigorating defense against the many slings and arrows of life.

"I love this collection of dreamy Texan short fiction, swirling with stories about youth, music, rebellion, and community. Each vignette is steeped in a hazy nostalgia and yet decidedly unsentimental. Unique and mesmerizing, with real emotional depth." —Recommended by Daley Farr, events coordinator, Milkweed Books

Tin Man

by Sarah Winman, Putnam, 2017

Michael loves Ellis, Ellis loves Annie, and Annie loves them both. Yet Sarah Winman's blistering novel *Tin Man* is anything but the usual love triangle. Instead, Winman asks us to consider what remains of love after its object is gone. She crowds this spare little book, set in London, Oxford, and the south of France, with vivid portraits of loss.

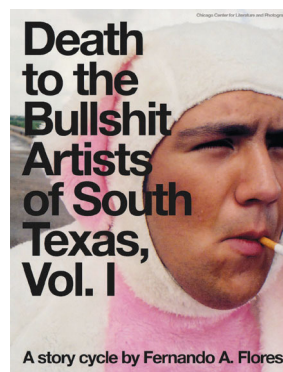
"At once terse and expansive, *Tin Man* is a firework flashing in the night—gone too soon but burned forever into the reader's memory." —Recommended by David, manager, Common Good Books

NONFICTION

I'll Be Gone in the Dark

by Michelle McNamara, Harper, 2018

Michelle McNamara devoted much of her life to researching and investigating the



unsolved crimes perpetrated by the man she dubbed the Golden State Killer. Remarkably, a suspect was finally arrested around the same time the book was published, after McNamara's death. McNamara's passion, intelligence, and literary skill shine in this powerful narrative, destined to become a true-crime classic.

"True crime and dark winter days go together like mashed potatoes and gravy, so if you missed this bestseller by the late Michelle McNamara, now is the time to catch up." —Recommended by Magers & Quinn staff

Sons of Cain: A History of Serial Killers from the Stone Age to the Present

by Peter Vronsky, Berkley, 2018

Following his 2004 book, *Serial Killers: The Method and Madness of Monsters*, Peter Vronsky continues his examination of serial killers throughout history—and why we're so obsessed by them. In *Sons of Cain*, Vronsky's focus narrows to sexual serial killers, tracing the origins of this particular form of violence back to the pre-civilization era. As an investigative historian, Vronsky brings true-crime intrigue to an academic dissection of serial killers' motives and mindsets. The term "serial killer" may have only been coined in 1981, but the phenomenon is deeply rooted in the human experience.

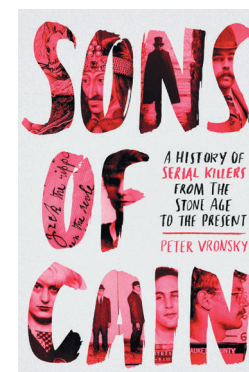
"Because who doesn't want to know about that?" —Recommended by Devin Abraham, manager, Once Upon A Crime

Heavy: An American Memoir

by Kiese Laymon, Scribner, 2018

Heavy is the story of a young black man raised in Jackson, Mississippi by a single mother and confronted with the twin prejudices of racism and body-shaming. Kiese, who has always struggled with his weight, is trapped in an America that both promotes and despises fatness, an America that polices his body in more ways than one. The memoir layers this systemic and omnipresent violence against black bodies with tales of Laymon's complicated relationship with his mother and the love and redemption he finds in his grandmother.

"Kiese Laymon is one of the most tal-



ented writers on the scene and his latest book, *Heavy*, is this season's not-to-miss memoir. The book is not only an intimate history but also a wide-reaching reflection on contemporary America. *Heavy* is certainly heavy but well worth the effort." —Recommended by Will Sheffer & Heidi Birchler, booksellers, Moon Palace Books

Emergent Strategy

by Adrienne Maree Brown, AK Press, 2017

The subtitle of *Emergent Strategy* gives you a sense of the scope of this radical self-help book: *Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. Brown, a visionary social-justice advocate and a creative thinker, encourages the reader to accept the constant flux of the world and find the patterns that shape it. By recognizing these patterns, we can understand, influence, and ultimately create a better world through the power of personal and societal transformation.

"By far the most hopeful and energizing book I've read this year. I know I'm not alone, as this is also our most frequently requested book at Boneshaker." —Recommended by Rebecca, volunteer, Boneshaker Books

Worse than Slavery

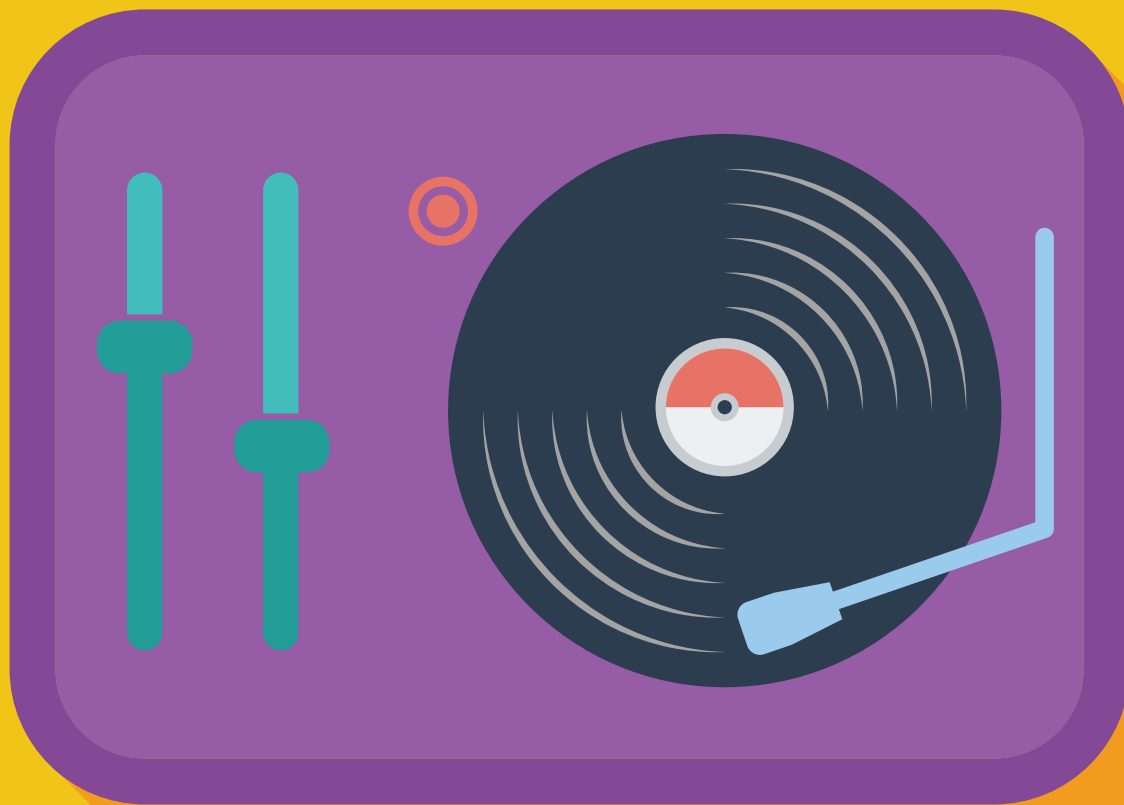
by David Oshinsky, Free Press, 1997

The story of racial injustice in America does not end with the abolition of chattel slavery in 1865. David Oshinsky's essential work, *Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*, picks up the narrative there, exploring how slavery's legacy continued to thrive in legalized forms of abuse: Jim Crow and the criminal justice system. Through the history of Mississippi's Parchman State Penitentiary, notorious for chain gangs and synonymous with cruelty, Oshinsky gives us an unflinching portrait of life after emancipation—and the lasting effects of racial violence and oppression in America.

"Oshinsky does well to make the reader uncomfortable with the past and, through this discomfort, confront the truth about racism and its legacy in America and in the American criminal justice system. This is a book I would highly recommend everyone living in America read." —Recommended by Kristalena, volunteer, Boneshaker Books

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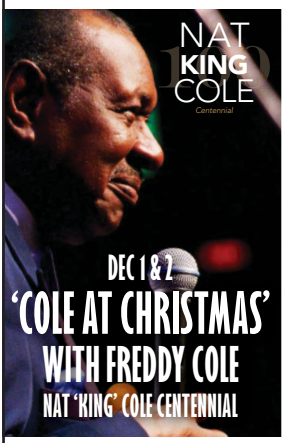
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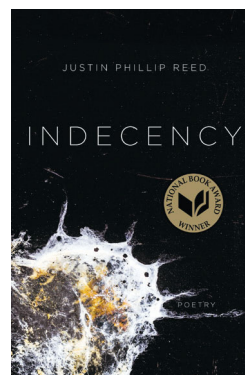
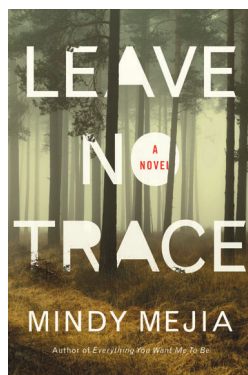


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Rising

by Elizabeth Rush, Milkweed Editions, 2018

Much ink has been spilled over the global effects of climate change, and while much of that ink discusses these effects on distant lands, *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* focuses specifically on the American shoreline. Rush travels to Louisiana, Oregon, Maine, and New York City to talk to Americans about how their lives and livelihoods have been upended by rising oceans. *Rising* is the story of communities already faced with the prospect of saying goodbye to the places they call home.

"*Rising* is an eye-opening book, one that should not and cannot be ignored." —Recommended by Matt Keliher, manager and buyer, SubText Books

The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid

by Dylan Thuras and Rosemary Mosco, illustrated by Joy Ang, Workman Publishing, 2018

From the creators of *Atlas Obscura* comes a wonderful kids' edition that calls out to all adventurers. This illustrated guide will transport you to 47 countries and every continent to discover 100 of the most mesmerizing natural and manmade wonders.

"It's easy to lose yourself in these luscious illustrations of bizarre occurrences and beautiful mysteries around the globe. Put on your explorer's hat and get reading!" —Recommended by Katie McGinley and Heather Albinson, booksellers, Wild Rumpus Books

False Calm: A Journey Through the Ghost Towns of Patagonia

by Maria Sonia Cristoff, translated by Katherine Silver, Transit Books, 2018

Through a series of portraits of remote towns in Patagonia, Cristoff brings the reader face to face with people who have chosen or been forced to accept a life of relative isolation. Cristoff spares no detail in her portrayal of this distant world, where mental illness, suicide, and economic stagnation have become commonplace. Yet, within this solitude, Cristoff finds a beauty, a magical realism that unnerves and enraptures.

"Patagonia is a vast and remote place. This book accurately captures that sense

of strange expansiveness and crystalizes it into a narrative that is dense with isolation. Simply wonderful." —Recommended by Hans Weyandt, bookstore manager, Milkweed Books

Niagara

by Alec Soth, MACK, 2018

"I went to Niagara for the same reason as the honeymooners and suicide jumpers," says photographer Alec Soth, "the relentless thunder of the Falls just calls for big passion." Haunting and beautiful, *Niagara* chooses the iconic falls as its focal point, but mostly captures the human interactions surrounding the natural wonder. Through love letters, motel parking lots, and pawnshop wedding rings, Soth tells a story of love and loss, lust and death.

"A wonderful follow-up to Soth's classic photo book *Sleeping by the Mississippi*. A mind-blowing photo book and a classic, lovingly reissued by MACK books." —Recommended by Joe, bookseller, Common Good Books

LOCAL

Whisked: Cooking Up Community

edited by Camille J. Gage and Molly Herrmann, 2018

Whisked is a locally produced community cookbook featuring secret recipes from favorite Twin Cities chefs and restaurants.

"Learn how to make a torta just like one from Manny's Tortas, Ann Kim's roasted cauliflower with calabrian chile from Pizzeria Lola, and more. It also features writing and art by locals, and the net proceeds from this book go toward the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota." —Recommended by Magers & Quinn staff

Leave No Trace

by Mindy Mejia, Emily Bestler, 2018

A man and his son trek into the Boundary Waters on a camping trip and vanish. They are presumed dead until a decade later, when the son mysteriously appears. Mindy Mejia's gripping novel follows language therapist Maya Stark's quest to connect with her violent, uncommunicative patient—and maybe reunite him with his missing father.

"Mejia wows again with wonderful

words, great character development, and a beautiful homage to the Boundary Waters."

—Recommended by Devin Abraham, manager, Once Upon A Crime

When Everything Was Everything

by Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay, Full Circle Publishing, 2018

Local Lao poet, playwright, and performance artist Saymoukda Vongsay brings forth her experience as a Lao girl in Minnesota with stunning precision and vulnerability. This book of poetry is directed at children, but holds memories, reflections, and portraits that will resonate with readers of all ages.

"Vongsay tells the story of her childhood in St. Paul in brief memories from the Hmong market to the classroom to Interstate 94. Cori Nakamura Lin provides gorgeous watercolors that make Vongsay's stories come to life." —Recommended by Will Sheffer & Heidi Birchler, booksellers, Moon Palace Books

A Quick & Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns

by Archie Bongiovanni and Tristan Jimerson, Limerence Press, 2018

Follow along as Archie, a genderqueer artist, and Tristan, his cisgender pal, review what gender-neutral pronouns are, why they matter, and how to use them. Made a pronoun mistake? The team covers what to do. Plus, they give helpful tips for staying safe and sane in this binary-centric world.

"Quick, easy, fun, and friendly. This is the perfect non-threatening guide to gender-neutral language, and it was created by Boneshaker's very own Archie!" —Recommended by Kat, volunteer, Boneshaker Books

Indecency

by Justin Phillip Reed, Coffee House Press, 2018

This winner of the National Book Award for Poetry experiments with language to take on white supremacy, black identity, sexuality, and the prison industrial complex.

"*Indecency* by Justin Phillip Reed is revelatory in its beauty, exciting in its form, and completely, wonderfully human. And, yes, that is bird shit on the cover." —Recommended by Matt Keliher, manager and buyer, SubText Books

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Hush Hush, Forest

by Mary Casanova,
illustrated by Nick Wroblewski,
University of Minnesota Press, 2018

This gentle bedtime tale perfectly captures the change of season in our northern landscape. Brought to you by two of Minnesota's finest talents, Mary Casanova and Nick Wroblewski, *Hush Hush, Forest* watches as wildlife prepare for night, from the preening racoon to the doe and fawn bedding down.

"Snuggle up in the city and dream yourself into the wintry forest!"

—Recommended by Katie McGinley and Heather Albinson, booksellers, Wild Rumpus Books

Directory of American Menu Hotlines, Vol. 1: Hospitals, Military Bases, Senior Centers, Churches & Service Organizations

by Andy Sturdevant,
Birchwood Palace Industries, 2018

This is yet another delightful project from local savant Andy Sturdevant, in which he profiles places across the nation you can call to hear someone read you their daily menus. Sound boring? It's not. Sound weird? It is! Delightfully so. Sturdevant is inquisitive and thorough, with a genuine appreciation for his subjects that reels in the reader.

"Featuring real-life characters like 'the Miami Valley Cowboy' and the menu reader at the St. Charles Parish Hospital in Louisiana, whose gusto for her task is impossible to resist. 'Happy Friday, y'all!'"

—Recommended by Milkweed staff

Dream Country

by Shannon Gibney, Dutton Books
for Young Readers, 2018

Kollie Flomo, a Liberian teenager living in the suburbs of Minneapolis, is sent to school in Monrovia. Togar Somah, an indigenous Liberian teen, is on the run from slave traders in the early 20th century. In 1827, children of Yasmine Wright leave a Virginia plantation with their mother to find promise in the new country of Liberia. Shannon Gibney's web of stories paints a picture of the tangled connections between Liberia and America, and the resilient characters caught in the struggle for freedom.

"This young-adult novel is a wonderful and personal lens to the United States' relationship with Liberia and the migration of slaves and refugees. It's a must-read to learn about a part of history that we don't talk about enough." —Recommended by Riley, bookseller, Common Good Books

Special thanks to the following bookstores for their recommendations and for keeping the Twin Cities well read: Boneshaker Books, Common Good Books, Magers & Quinn, Milkweed Books, Moon Palace Books, Once Upon A Crime, SubText Books, Wild Rumpus 



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BY HANNAH SAYLE

In the east, a Great Bagel War rages. The New York bagel is the prototype. Boiled and then baked in a steamy hot oven, they come out fat and glossy, golden like a roasted chicken. The exterior is chewy, the interior is soft, and the surface is wide and substantial enough to hold up a heaping schmear of cream cheese and a deli case of toppings. In Montreal, the underdog takes a smaller, denser form. This interpretation has a larger hole in the center, and is boiled in honey water and finished in a wood-fired oven. You won't find many of them sliced and served as sandwiches; they're more likely torn and dipped into spreads.

To which side do we, humble Minnesotans, pledge our allegiance? We mostly butt out, on account of hating conflict and loving carbs unconditionally. But with Meyvn, the Lake Street deli/bar/bagel shop from Saint Dinette's Tim Niver, Laurel Elm, and chef Adam Eaton, we might have stumbled into a hybrid that keeps us comfortably in the middle.

Though billed as Montreal-style, Meyvn's bagels aren't as sweet or simplistic as their Quebecois counterparts. Montreal's version typically comes in just two varieties: sesame and poppy seed. Meyvn offers plain, everything, onion and garlic, brown sugar, and sesame. And while they're wood-fired in Montreal's trademark style, giving them that faint smokiness and crisp finish, they're then sliced, à la New York bagels, and topped with your preferred combination of cream cheese, lox, capers, onions, arugula, tomato, egg, Taylor ham, pastrami, smoked salmon, etc. Meyvn's bagels have the density of a Montrealer, but get the treatment of the New York classic.

Since you'll likely be dressing yours up in sandwich form, we enthusiastically recommend pairing the green-onion cream cheese with pastrami salmon. It isn't cheap at \$13, but it earns its price tag in the supple, smoke-edged fish. If you like your breakfast for less than a tenner, a simpler bagel and cream cheese schmear with tomato, onion, capers, cucumbers, and arugula is a reasonable \$5. An undressed one is two bucks.

The bagel isn't the only way Meyvn borrows and breaks from tradition. While its menu has the distinct bent of a Jewish deli in Brooklyn, with lox and matzo ball soup and pastrami on rye, there's also an infusion of Israeli and Mediterranean flavors, as

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in the shakshouka and the hummus and the lamb poutine with ras el hanout. Then there's the Polish pierogi, the oozy diner cheeseburger, and a Middle Eastern take on spicy fried chicken. In the same column of the menu, you'll find fried cauliflower with tahini, potato latkes with horseradish and beet, and a standard Cobb salad. This is a collection of culinary traditions blended to create an essential, eclectic take on Jewish food.

Not every item is wholly successful. The soup broth was thin on flavor, a let-down for the perfect softball of matzo and hearty hunks of dark meat chicken. Shakshouka, typically a dish of eggs basted in a rich, fiery tomato sauce, also suffered from a lack of depth; the sauce was flat, overpowered by the one-note sweetness of stewed tomatoes. Its savior was a delectable wood-fired pita that had a softness and crisp edge to make us cringe at all the dry, spongy pitas we've eaten in our time. Of the menu highlights, the pierogi with farmer's cheese and crème fraîche were an

unforgettable comfort, like the first flush of warmth after a day in the snow. We think lusty thoughts about these creamy potato and cheese morsels, topped with an unexpected cluster of juicy roe. We'll stop ourselves before we go too far: Order these, morning, noon, or night.

Happily, you can, as Meyvn has condensed its breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus since opening in June, offering the same items all day long. It's a single-page menu—food on one side, drinks on the other—that has us breathing a sigh of relief: One person's sea of choices is another's wasteland of indecision. We tend toward the latter.

Where your options expand a bit is with a changing prix fixe dinner, which recently included a buttery chicken liver mousse with duqqa spice, pickled grapes, and those warm chunks of grilled pita. On the main menu, you'll find entree selections for an individual meal—any of the sandwiches, for instance—but we enjoyed ordering up a mix of plates to share, like

that chicken liver mousse, along with a hefty portion of fried yet supple cauliflower in a pool of tangy yogurt sauce, and the hot, fried potato latkes with a trio of dips: sour cream, apple butter, and a beet horseradish sauce. Israeli hot chicken, spicy with a little sugar mixed in, is a mighty fine plate of fried chicken: crackling on the outside and juicy on the inside, with a cucumber tahini sauce to tame the heat.

Of course, it wouldn't be a rightful Jewish deli without a pastrami sandwich, and Meyvn meets the challenge with a honking pile of tender spiced meat on rye bread, served alongside a Schwartz's Kosher half-pickle and a bright pickled potato salad. The balance of fat, spices, and pucker is precise in this combination, only enhanced by a dilly Bloody Mary (the Bloody Merriam), should you be inclined. If a hot sandwich is in order, the cheeseburger is a squishy delight that drips its melty Swiss onto the wax paper it sits on. Make the McDonald's-style French fries your side of choice and revel in the familiar flavors of childhood.

Another nostalgic flavor appears during Meyvn's ample happy hour, from 2 to 6 p.m. daily. The pizza bagel, a classic after-school snack, is imagined here as adult food, with that morning's bagel as the base for layers of spicy tomato sauce, feta, mozzarella, and torn basil. It's just \$5 for a hearty snack or light dinner. Dessert will cost you more than that (\$7), but it's a worthy finale. Skip the too-sweet maple crème brûlée and direct your attention to the warm carrot cake, a cube with a caramelized crust baked on all sides and cream cheese frosting that melts down to a pool at the bottom of the plate.

Meyvn is an enigma. It's a deli, but also a cocktail bar; a bagel shop, but also a small-plates restaurant. During the day, you order at the counter; in the evening there's table service. At 8 a.m., it's a bright breakfast

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date spot for sharing a very sexy plate of pierogi. (Seriously, get the pierogi already.)

We don't have the luxury of New York's expansive dining scene, where a shop owner can make a living on the bagel rush alone. Instead, we get a mashup of several spots in one, a do-it-all place that serves numerous purposes and a variety of cuisines. We get the marvelous Meyvn. **EF**

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W/ PETRA GLYNT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

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PALACE THEATRE UP NEXT

DEC 14 **ATMOSPHERE**
W/ deM atlas, THE LIONESS, DJ KEEZY
(DEC. 15 SHOW SOLD OUT)

FEB 05 **INTERPOL**
W/ SUNFLOWER BEAN

FEB 12 **RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE**
W/ MT. JOY

FEB 22 **BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS**
W/ BLUE WATER HIGHWAY BAND

FEB 23 **BEIRUT**
W/ HELADO NEGRO

FEB 24 **YOUNG THE GIANT MIRROR MASTER TOUR**
W/ SURE SURE

MAR 09 **THE REVIVALISTS**
Take Good Care Tour

FINE LINE UP NEXT

SIMS (of Doomtree): A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR NORTHSIDE MUSIC EDUCATION
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

JOHN GRANT
W/ TWO MEDICINE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

GET TOGETHER #8: House For The Holidays ft. PAUL JOHNSON
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

SNOW FLEX ZONE
W/ MIKE 2600, JUST NINE, ESPADA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

THE BIG WU Album Release Show
W/ MIKEL WRIGHT AND THE WRONGS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Y2K: A '90S NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH YOU OUGHTA KNOW
W/ THE '90S PRESERVATION SOCIETY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

TURF CLUB UP NEXT

TIMOTHY SEXTON, EXTRATERRESTRIALS, AND ANOTHER HEAVEN
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

FAITH BOBLETT ENOUGH ALBUM RELEASE
W/ FATHOM LANE, SAM CASSIDY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

THROWING SHADE LIVE 2018: THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE CONDO TOUR
(LATE SHOW SOLD OUT, EARLY SHOW ADDED)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

MARTIN DEVANEY PLAID ON PLAID RELEASE SHOW
W/ LITTLE MAN, VALET
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

TENGER CAVALRY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

OLD SALT UNION
W/ THE COMMON GROUND COMPANY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

ALL TOMORROW'S PETTY RESIDENCY AT THE TURF CLUB
W/ INVISIBLE BOY, ACTUAL WOLF (SOLO)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

THE LAST REVEL
W/ JOSEPH HUBER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

AROUND TOWN

INGRID MICHAELSON TRIO presents: Songs For The Season
FITZGERALD THEATER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

HALEY Record Release Show
W/ LOKI'S FOLLY
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

COMING SOON

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FIRST AVENUE \$35/\$40 DOS / 7PM DOORS / 18+

SAT MAY 25 **SNARKY PUPPY**
PALACE THEATRE \$30+ / 7:30PM DOORS / 18+

A LIST

FRIDAY Union Depot's European Christmas Market p. 21 **SATURDAY** Quirky U.K. commercials at the Walker p. 23 **SUNDAY** The M re-opens with a party p. 23

WEDNESDAY 11.28

COMEDY

IAN BAGG

ACME COMEDY CO.

Ian Bagg is a standup comedian from British Columbia who now makes his home in L.A. Known for his crowd work, Bagg has some advice for his audience: It's okay to be offended. His set includes chatting with the crowd and tales inspired by his personal life. "I live in Long Beach," he says, "where crime meets sand. If you want to play a game called 'Will my car be there tomorrow?', Long Beach is your town." He explains, "it isn't like West Hollywood where they steal your whole car. They stole my driver's side window once. It took me 10 minutes to figure out it was gone. If you can steal a car piece by piece, you'll never get caught." Purchasing a house in Long Beach has inspired Bagg to start a podcast, called *Ian Bought a House*, which he co-hosts with contractor Mike Benedetto. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**



Groveland showcases a variety of local artists in its galleries this season.

DAN AND LEE ROSS

THURSDAY 11.29

THEATER

GET THEE BEHIND ME, SANTA

STRIKE THEATER

Seeking out phillip andrew bennett low's latest endeavor is never a wasted effort. The prolific low is equally skilled on the stage and behind the curtain, adept at playwriting and performing, lending his talents to collectives (such as Rockstar Storytellers, which he co-founded) or taking the solo spotlight. Last year, low added "comic fantasy novella author" to his résumé with the publication of *Get Thee Behind Me, Santa*. Subtitled "An Inexcusably Filthy Children's Spoken-Word Musical for Adults Only," the delightfully deranged parody imagines Saint Nicholas as a time-traveling detective who teams up with Jesus of Nazareth to determine what's gone wrong with

Christmas. Adapted for the stage by Joey Hamburger (best known for his idiosyncratic work with Sheep Theater), the unhinged holiday noir features original music by Pablo Jones. Director Derek Dirlam (a charismatic actor in his own right and part of the radio theater group Conundrum Collective) will oversee the talented local ensemble igniting this festive roast of yuletide rhetoric. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. \$12-\$15. 824 18th Ave. NE., Minneapolis. **Through December 8 —BRAD RICHASON**

COMEDY

CELESTE BARBER

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Though she has been a successful actor for years, appearing in several TV series in her native Australia, Celeste Barber has gained worldwide attention thanks

to Instagram. It's on that social media platform that she humorously recreates the photos, videos, and posts of the famous. She has amassed five million followers, four million of those following in the past 18 months. The mother of two is helped in her social media antics by one of her two step-daughters and a husband she modestly describes as "universally hotter" than she is. "I did one on a surfboard when I was in Bali," she told Australia's *Today Show* last year. "Lady Gaga had done yoga on a surfboard because, obviously. So, I did yoga on a surfboard. It didn't go well, the surfboard flew up and smacked me on the nose. My husband asked, 'Is my surfboard all right?'" 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$25. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THEATER

FREEDOM DAZE

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Where did Islamophobia come from? Playwright Aamera Siddiqui attempts to find out in her play *Freedom Daze*, presented by Exposed Brick Theatre. Delving into the sea of misinformation in the media and on the internet, the piece explores how the U.S. became a place where it is acceptable to treat Muslim people as second-class citizens. The play is directed by Suzy Messerole, who recently gained international fame as a gold medalist at the Gay Games with her synchronized swimming team, the Subversive Sirens. Messerole brings Siddiqui's play to life, using multimedia to tell a number of stories. Segments include "The Girl in the Yellow Dress," "They Hate Freedom," and "The Terror Alert Is." All draw on true stories as they

FRIDAY

FILM

2018 BRITISH ARROWS AWARDS

WALKER ART CENTER

The British Arrows Awards is renowned for showcasing some of the most innovative, moving, irreverent, and/or bizarre advertising accomplishments of the past year. Though ostensibly developed to pitch products, these hugely entertaining shorts have all transcended their commercial purpose, existing on their own artistic terms. Considering the heightened quality of the work, it's no surprise that the Walker Art Center's annual screening of the awards remains one of the institution's most popular draws, accommodating some 27,000 attendees over the course of the month-long event. Carrying on a 32-year tradition, the 2018 Arrows offers audiences the opportunity to communally enjoy these engaging works on a screen big enough to contain their audacious scope. Showtimes vary, check online at www.walkerartcenter.org to reserve a seat. \$14. 1750 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through December 30 —BRAD RICHASON**



COURTESY OF BRITISH ARROWS 2018

ruminate on the origin of hate. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$12-\$24. 1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811. **Through December 9 —SHEILA REGAN**

FRIDAY 11.30

HOLIDAY

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKET 2018

UNION DEPOT

Winter weather doesn't stop European countries from having open-air holiday markets, and it doesn't stop Minnesotans either. This season, the Union Depot will once again host this festive event offering a variety of things to see, do, and consume. Shop from local makers working in wood, felt, and wool. Try some hearty traditional food (Gulasch! Roasted nuts! Brats! Crepes!), or stay warm with some Gluhwein, a delicious type of mulled wine. Holiday entertainment, movie screenings, choral acts, bonfires, and family fun round out each afternoon. Find the complete schedule at stpaulchristmasmarket.org. 4 to 9 p.m. Fridays; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays; noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. Free. 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul; 651-202-2700. **Through December 10 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

COMEDY

JOE BOB BRIGGS: HOW REDNECKS SAVED HOLLYWOOD

PARKWAY THEATER

Film critic Joe Bob Briggs has no use for mainstream movies. "Their slickness, the three-act formula, the

'up' endings, the movie star system," he tells City Pages, "It's a recipe for boredom." Briggs gained national attention when he started hosting horror movies on cable TV, parlaying his cult success as one of the only critics in the country willing to review the kind of exploitation movies that ran at his local Dallas drive-in—everything from his beloved *Texas Chain Saw Massacre* to less influential fare like *Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama*. He's best known as the host of the 1990s TNT late-night staple *Monstervision*, where he guided viewers through a wonderland of cable-edited sleaze (and the occasional legit horror classic). Briggs is back in the hosting chair with a series of monster-movie marathons on streaming service Shudder, and the dry-humored raconteur is also touring with a show about the history of rednecks in America, packed with over 200 clips and references from his encyclopedic knowledge of the best—and worst—of cinema. 21+. 7 p.m. \$20/\$25. 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-8080. **—BRYAN MILLER**

COMEDY

LEWIS BLACK

PANTAGES THEATRE

It was just two days after the midterm elections when City Pages got ahold of Lewis Black. "It's just great, everything is just great," he grumbles into his cellphone. "It's the same all the time now.... No facts, no reporting, no sense of what the truth is, no one stepping up. The level of madness has not changed." While voter turnout was up, Black was not encouraged. "It's not a good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ►

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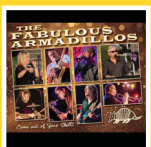
SAT, DEC 29



GEAR DADDIES
with guest
THE BELFAST COWBOYS

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MON, DEC 31

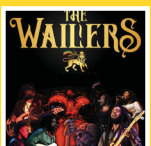


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FRI, FEB 1



THE WAILERS
with guest
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Doors 7:30pm • Music 8:15pm • 21+

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MARCH 2 LED ZEPPELIN 2:
THE LIVE EXPERIENCE
MARCH 16 QUEENSRYCHE
with guest FATES WARNING
MARCH 30 TOMMY CASTRO
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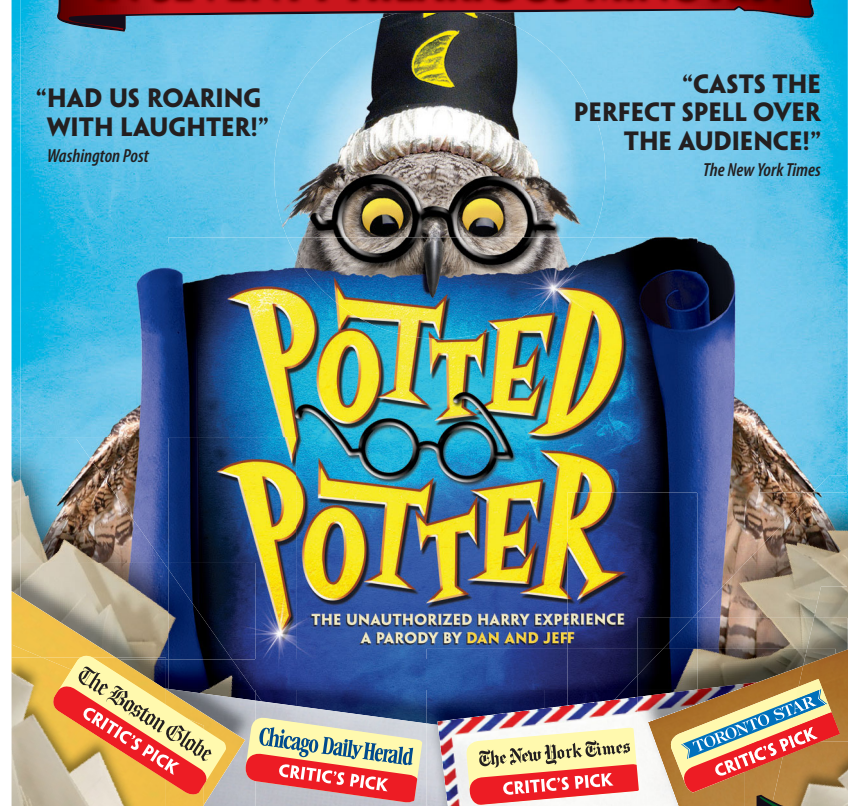
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CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

turnout until everyone votes,” he states. “People that don’t vote should be fined. That’s what you have to do, that’s the deal.” Of course, there’s the concern that some voters are not informed on the issues or candidates. “I want them voting,” Black continues. “I don’t give a shit. Their responsibility is to walk into that voting booth. That’s your assignment as an adult. You do it so your children will do it, and you do it for the people who died so you could do it. We can’t tell other countries democracy is great unless we do it, and we don’t. It’s absurd.” For this tour, Black is taking a slightly different approach to his social and political commentary. “It’s things I’ve found while traveling the country,” he says. “Like the difference between a chicken nugget and a buffalo chicken tender.” It sounds silly, but he elaborates. “I think that demonstrates some of the underlying problems we have as a nation. I’m finding ways to talk about what’s going on without talking about what’s going on.” 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$59.50-\$85. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. **Also Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THEATER

PAINTING THE ROOM:
A NEW IMPROVISATION

SPRINGHOUSE MINISTRY CENTER

What happens when you bring a group of dancers, performers, and musicians together? Come find out at Painting the Room, a collaboration between pianist Thomas C. Lang, violinist Isabel Dammann, and performers Tera Kilbride, Crissy Tolson, and Nora Anderson. The team uses music, dance, and text to create improvisational pieces covering topics such as technology, suburbia, and other aspects of our 21st century existence. The group previously presented a teaser for this show at Icehouse; this Friday you can see the full-length production. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$15 suggested donation; pay-as-able. 610 W. 28th St., Minneapolis; 612-353-6292. **—SHEILA REGAN**

SATURDAY 12.1

HOLIDAY

GRAND MEANDER 2018

GRAND AVENUE

This Saturday marks the return of Grand Meander, a daylong holiday party along Grand Avenue in St. Paul. The neighborhood will become a winter wonderland, with strolling carolers, trolley rides (or take a trip with a Vulcan via truck), and window decorations



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

adding a festivity to the shops and businesses of the area. Things kick off in the morning with a breakfast with Santa, and other fun to be had includes soup sampling and family activities. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Grand Avenue, from Dale to Fairview, St. Paul; 651-699-0029. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

THEATER

THE WICKHAMS:
CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

JUNGLE THEATER

Director Christina Baldwin calls *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* a “side-quel.” What does that mean? Playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon have crafted a follow-up to their play *Miss Bennet*, which itself was a sequel to Jane Austen’s novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The twist is that *The Wickhams* takes place simultaneously with *Miss Bennet*, in the same house. The new play stands on its own, but it will be particularly rewarding for the many theatergoers who packed the Jungle last holiday season for the company’s acclaimed production of *Miss Bennet*. Overlapping cast members will return for *The Wickhams*, with Angela Timberman joining as a housekeeper. “It’s a fun and fulfilling piece of theater

by itself,” says Baldwin, “but you do have these little Easter eggs of connection that are fun to find.” The Jungle is on a roll with original literary adaptations this season: *The Wickhams* is the second world-premiere commission in a row (in this case, a co-commission), following the superb *Little Women*. “Jane Austen is for everybody,” says Melcon. “I think there is a real opportunity [to] take some of these classic pieces and bring them back with a different perspective.” 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$35-\$45. 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-7063.

Through December 30 —JAY GABLER

ART/GALLERY

ROOT DOWN/SENSE OF PLACE

GROVELAND GALLERY

For “Root Down,” Amy Rice brings her vibrantly nostalgic aesthetic, rife with fields of flowers in colors that warm the cockles of our winter hearts, to Groveland Gallery. Her mixed-media work features the natural world she explores and the cultivated landscapes she gardens in the country. As her scope expands from the single flower and the wild garden to encompass whole fields of botanical joy, so does our appreciation of the spirit in her work. Rice’s show is paired with “Sense of Place,” which

was curated in collaboration with the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, a magazine which is featuring an issue on the topic. Rice’s work is included, along with prints and paintings by Clara Ueland, Carol Oltvedt, Gaylord Schanilec, and seven other artists. There will be an opening reception for both shows from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, December 1. 25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis; 612-377-7800. **Through January 19, 2019 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

HOLIDAY

ARTS & ALES

INDEED BREWING CO.

Some of the best holiday gifts are handmade and come with a story. And most good stories start with a beer and a blucy, right? Arts & Ales is a wreath-making class that takes place at Indeed Brewing. But before the art, it kicks off with a pint and a burger courtesy of Blue Door. After you settle in and meet your fellow artisans, GetKnit Events will present a showcase on how to make your own holiday wreath using fraser fir. Start with a beer, a wire frame... and perhaps another beer. In addition to food, drinks, and crafting, tickets also score you an array of decorations to take home, a beer koozie, and a growler deposit. Register for the event at getknitevents.com. 21+. 5 to 8:30 p.m. \$65-\$75. 711 15th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-843-5090. **Also December 9 —LOREN GREEN**

SUNDAY 12.2

ART/MUSEUM

GRAND (RE)OPENING

MINNESOTA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

The “M,” as it likes to be known, has been on the move for a while, providing glimpses of its marvelous collection through exhibitions at the historic Pioneer Endicott building. Now the M has constructed a permanent home in the complex, designed to create spaces of inclusivity and community that celebrate artmaking and its potential to bring people together. The grand opening includes live music by Lady Xok, performances by SuperGroup, hands-on art making activities, an exhibition that draws visitors into the depth and breadth of the M’s collection, and a light installation by David Bowen in the M’s new Window Gallery. Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra kicks off the M’s first artist takeover, inviting visitors into her creative process based on Latinx and Indigenous art forms. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. 350 Robert St. N., St. Paul; 651-797-2571. **—CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

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FILM

WRECK THE INTERNET

Sarah Silverman and John C. Reilly return to the digital world
in *Ralph Breaks the Internet*



DISNEY

*Ralph Breaks
the Internet* is a
refreshingly good
Disney sequel.

BY TONY LIBERA

If the past decade has taught us anything, it's that the internet can be a very scary place. In *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, our heroes get a crash course.

The follow-up to 2012's *Wreck-It Ralph* returns us to the world of Litwak's Family Fun Center and Arcade, where video game characters Vanellope von Schweetz (Sarah Silverman) and the eponymous oaf (John C. Reilly) live out a pretty steady routine. Vanellope's now a fan favorite in her arcade racing game, *Sugar Rush*, but six years of dominating the competition has left her longing for something more.

As she waxes philosophical, Ralph takes it upon himself to bring some excitement to his little pal's world. During a race the following morning, Ralph creates a new road. Vanellope leaps at the opportunity to experience something novel, but by defying the game's player, she breaks the steering wheel out in the real world. With the only replacement part going for \$200 on eBay, arcade owner Litwak (Ed O'Neill) decides to unplug the game and sell it for parts.

Ralph and Vanellope are distraught at first, but a new Wi-Fi connection gives them

a chance to find the part themselves. The duo heads out into the internet, dazzled by what's depicted as a bustling digital metropolis—but in a world of shady characters, malware, and unkind commenters, it isn't long before things fall apart.

As far as animated sequels go, *Ralph Breaks the Internet* performs above expectations. It doesn't quite capture the magic of the original (some of the novelty having worn off, not to mention the undeniable *Ready Player One* similarities), but the film skirts the major pitfalls of kids' movie sequels by exploring new lines of thought rather than doubling down on the established world. It's a refreshing change from Disney, whose past animated sequels often went straight to video and were notoriously derivative trash.

For how big its world is, *Ralph Breaks the Internet* is a small story, an examination of what happens when two people change and relationships outgrow the circumstances that created them. Not that this is an easy movie by kid or adult standards. There are some harsh realities presented here, but *Ralph Breaks the Internet* makes an effort to keep the sweet in bittersweet.

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

directed by Rich Moore and Phil Johnston
now open, area theaters

There's a whole other article to be written about the omnipresent corporate world glitzed up here, where your Amazons and eBays are literally elevated in a futuristic *Jetsons* utopia above the grimy lands below. I'm sure somebody somewhere is doing their dissertation on internet brand awareness with young children, but with limited space here, let's just acknowledge the high saturation of proprietary media coming from a company known for its heavy hand in copyright law. Such is the nature of the ever-growing Disney behemoth: We get a movie where Avengers, Stormtroopers, and Disney Princesses (the surprise highlight of the movie) all make appearances, and we decide later whether that's actually cool in the grand scheme of things.

Taking the good with the bad, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*'s message is ultimately a positive one, and the movie, while probably leaving you more depressed than most kids' flicks, works more than it wrecks. **B+**

PRESCIENT HARBINGERS

Mixed Blood's three-play series is riveting



Hype Man

PAUL FOX

BY JAY GABLER

The title of Mixed Blood Theatre's current series of shows, *Prescient Harbingers*, doesn't exactly scream, "three of the most exciting plays you'll see this season." Don't let the stiff title put you off, though. Take the opportunity to see these urgent, entertaining productions.

All written by renowned black male playwrights, the three works presented in repertory are very different, but complementary. Identity and narrative are common threads. In all three pieces, white people try to tell the stories of black lives and come up lacking. Sometimes the results are comic. They're always tragic.

Gloria (2015), written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and directed by Lavina Jadhvani, begins as a dark comedy about publishing-industry office politics. Three cynical young magazine employees (Kathryn Fumie, Colleen Lafeber, and Tom Reed) pick on an intern (William Thomas Hodgson) and two long-suffering older colleagues (Bonni Allen and Ernest Briggs). When disaster strikes, they find themselves competing to produce the definitive tear-jerking book about the tragic losses at a workplace they actually hated.

Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm's *Hooded* (2017), directed by Thomas W. Jones II, has the alternate title *Being Black for Dummies*. That's the name of a handwritten guide the character Tru (Nathan Barlow) creates for his friend Marquis (Hodgson),

PRESCIENT HARBINGERS

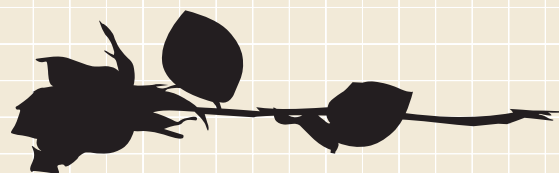
Mixed Blood Theatre
1501 S. Fourth St., Minneapolis
Through December 2; 612-338-6131

a black teen who was adopted by a white family and raised in a wealthy Baltimore suburb. The play, a searing commentary on feel-good fish-out-of-water sitcoms like *Diff'rent Strokes* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, finds Marquis discovering that his African-American identity is something he can't ignore—and his white peers certainly never will.

Hype Man (2018), a "break beat play" by Idris Goodwin, takes us inside a recording studio. Director Shawn LaCount leads a production with three riveting performances: Michael Knowlton as rapper Pinnacle, Kadhj Bennett as hype man Verb, and Rachel Cognata as the duo's beatmaker.

Pinnacle is a white hip-hop performer who doesn't want to talk about race, preferring to emphasize his own hustle and his solidarity with his bandmate Verb, who's black. A police shooting inspires Verb to take action, challenging Pinnacle to level up.

The three plays are all challenging in both theme and tone, and these artists absolutely command the material. There are two remaining chances to see all three plays in single-day succession (you can also see them individually). Mixed Blood calls them a "crazy-brilliant seven-hour theater extravaganza." As Verb could attest, just because it's hype doesn't mean it's not true. **EF**



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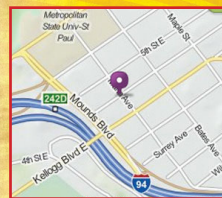
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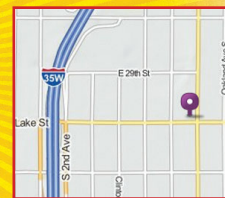
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HYPE OR DIE TOUR
DEC 21



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W/ MONTELL2099
FEB 16



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MERCILESS TOUR
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MAR 17



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STREET *Style*

SOMALI STYLE 1991 magazine release party at Public Functionary. **BY SAMSON MELKAMU**



KHADIJA “JIJA” AHMED
20, STUDENT/ARTIST

What are you wearing?

My personality. As for my clothes I don't know, my friend styled me so her clothes, I guess.

Describe your style:

Sultry, simplistic, earthy, and classic.

How does your African heritage influence your style?

Being Somali helped me understand beauty and how poetic we all are; the stories and folk tales move me and my style.

Best style advice:

Nothing ever looked good without gold hoops.



MEGAN ABDIRAHMAN
22, STUDENT

What are you wearing?

A gold satin shirt from PrettyLittleThing, camouflage pants from Fashion Nova, and ankle boots.

Describe your style:

My style depends on the event; it could be extra, edgy, or even classy.

How does your African heritage influence your style?

The influence shows especially with the bright colors I incorporate into my outfit. Also, I typically wear gold jewelry, a staple item in my country.



IAN “YASIN” MARQUEZ
21, RECORDING ARTIST

What are you wearing?

Corduroy trucker jacket from Forever 21, vintage turtleneck, and an original pair of Nike Airmax 97s “Metallic Gold.”

Describe your style:

I switch up between funk, hip-hop, and rock ‘n’ roll aesthetics.

How does your African heritage influence your style?

My African and Hispanic heritage gravitate me toward brighter colors. I think that directly relates to my elevated mood.



**ILSE WOLBANK (LEFT),
DEKA ABDULLAHI (RIGHT)**
25, DESIGNER / 21, GROCERY STOCKER

What are you wearing?

Wolbank: Thrifted earrings, COS top and pants, Zara boots. Abdullahi: Style & Co top, Alfred Dinner pants, both thrifted, and gifted platform shoes.

Describe your style:

Wolbank: Whimsical and ever-changing. Abdullahi: Hardcore.

Best style advice:

Wolbank: Wear comfortable shoes to a rave. Abdullahi: Wear whatever makes you feel comfortable.

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SATURDAY DEC 1
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Dec 6 J.E. Sunde,
Courtney Hartman,
Shane Leonard, Ben Lester
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12/08 - **PAUL CEBAR TOMORROW SOUND**
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12/12 - **BECKY KAPELL** #FreeMusicWednesdays

12/13 - **RADIO HEARTLAND 10th ANNIVERSARY**
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12/16 - **GARAGE BAND CHRISTMAS X**: Rockstar of Bethlehem

12/19 - **BIG GEORGE JACKSON** #FreeMusicWednesdays

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Saturday, December 1
An Evening with KELLER WILLIAMS
Doors 7pm • Show 8pm • All Ages • \$25 adv/\$30 dos

Sunday, December 2
The Cedar, JAZZ IS DEAD, City Pages and Radio K Present
THE MIDNIGHT HOUR
with Greg Grease
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$22 adv/\$25 dos

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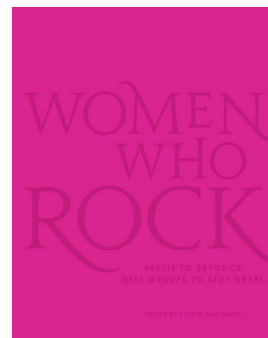
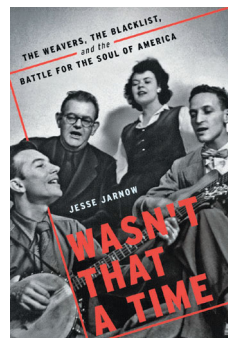
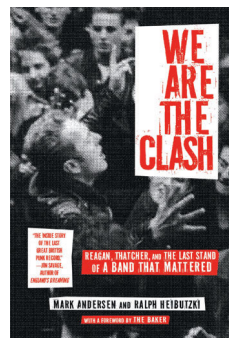
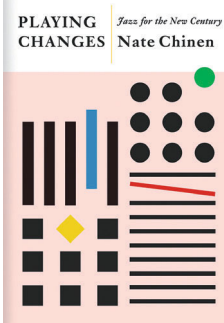
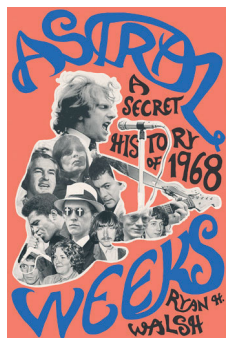
Saturday, December 8
First Avenue and 89.3 The Current Present
HALEY RECORD RELEASE
with Loki's Folly
Doors 8pm • Show 9pm • All Ages • \$20 GA

Sunday, December 9
The Cedar and KFAI Present
LISA GUTKIN - THE MUSIC AND MUSICIANS OF INDECENT
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$20 adv/\$22 dos

Wednesday, December 12
The Cedar and KFAI Present
SAMANTHA FISH
with Jonathon Boogie Long
Doors 7pm • Show 7:30pm • All Ages • \$15 adv/\$18 dos

2018: THE YEAR IN MUSIC BOOKS

Can you read all 12 before 2018 ends?



BY KEITH HARRIS

Most books about music and musicians are quickly puked-up exercises in nearly competent hackery. So imagine my surprise, my relief, even my joy to discover how easy it was to select a dozen music books that I can unequivocally recommend.

In fact, the tricky part was narrowing my list down, so to keep under my word count I've mostly avoided artist memoirs. No Wilco fan needs a nudge to check out the new Jeff Tweedy, after all, and no one with a sense of humor needs me to tell them the Beastie Boys' book is hilarious.

Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968

By Ryan H. Walsh

We'll be enduring 50-year anniversaries of classic rock albums for years to come (maybe not quite 50, if we're lucky), but few will be as wide-ranging and astute as this examination of the context from which Van Morrison's dreamy, elusive landmark recording arose, a colorful survey of the counterculture of Boston as the Irish rocker found it when he travelled there to record.

Bing Crosby: Swinging on a Star: The War Years, 1940-1946

By Gary Giddins

You've had 17 years to read Giddins' *Bing Crosby: A Pocketful of Dreams-The Early Years, 1930-1940*, so if you're not ready for this follow-up you've only got yourself to blame. The former *Village Voice* jazz critic set the gold standard for music bios with his first volume; its sequel follows Bing's career as the musical innovator became a film star and made himself at home at the center of American popular culture.

Homeplace: A Southern Town, a Country Legend, and the Last Days of a Mountaintop Honky-Tonk

By John Lingan

Lingan set out to Winchester, Virginia to profile Jim McCoy, the DJ who long ago jumpstarted Patsy Cline's career. But he stayed to examine the complex forces of history, economics, and identity that shaped that region's history and that continue, in unexpected ways, to shape its future.

In on the Kill Taker

By Joe Gross

The 33 1/3 series, which has been delivering book-length reflections on significant albums in bite-sized, gift-friendly little publications for 15 years, has always been hit or miss. But recent releases suggest a sharp increase in quality control. Case in point: this expert discussion of Fugazi's third album and how the DC band preserved their anti-mass-market ethos as punk became ridiculously profitable in 1993. (Full disclosure: I'm pals with the author, but I'm also principled enough that our friendship has restrained me from being more effusive about his writing than I would be otherwise. So there.)

Is It Still Good to Ya?: Fifty Years of Rock Criticism, 1967-2017

By Robert Christgau

Do you write about music? Read about music? Think about the stuff even a little? Well even if you've never read a word Christgau has written—or, really, even if you've disagreed with every word of his you've read—he's had an effect on how you write or read or think. Though Christgau is best known for his pithy, graded *Consumer Guide* blurbs, this monumental tome collects his longer essays on both essential

figures in popular music and his own pet favorites, at least a few of which he'll convince you deserve to be considered essential themselves. Buy two copies—one to throw angrily across the room, one as a reference.

My Own Devices: True Stories from the Road on Music, Science, and Senseless Love

By Dessa

As with any good memoir, Dessa's writing mingles the specific and the universal: Yes, I've felt that way, you think, but not exactly that way—and those feelings sure didn't make me do that. Yes, this is a book about a woman who's still hung up on a guy and doesn't want to be. (It's P.O.S, if you want to be gossipy about it—and why wouldn't you?) But she's self-aware about her foibles without ever being too cute about it. Her music tends toward melancholy, as she notes, but she's constitutionally immune to tragedy, bringing a hyper-analytical sensibility to bear on her unruly emotions and persevering with good old Midwestern pluck.

Playing Changes: Jazz for the New Century

By Nate Chinen

Even before Kamasi Washington started selling out rooms the size of the Palace, it was clear that jazz had moved beyond the crises and conflicts that defined it in the '80s and '90s. Chinen suggests that jazz's loss of cultural prominence has been good for it, freeing up its creative energies and allowing it to disregard past controversies.

She Begat This: 20 Years of The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill

By Joan Morgan

Morgan was among the first generation of journalists whose style was reshaped by

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Ian Bagg

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12.08 MALAMANYA

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SAT DEC 1ST
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Mama Caught Fire
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SUN DEC 2ND
MUMBLIN' DREW w/
JOSEPH R. DOWNING
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MONDAY DEC 3 (FREE)
STICK FIGURE MAN/ NEW LOCALS/ PHILIP ST JOHN'S

TUESDAY DEC 4 (FREE)
SHATTER CONES/ SAL PARADISE

MUSIC

'90s hip-hop—her collection *When Chickensheads Come Home to Roost* is essential. As Hill's contemporary, she's ideally suited to explain what made the first solo female rap superstar an unprecedented cultural figure, and to chart the precedents she set for those who followed her.

To Throw Away Unopened

Viv Albertine
OK, I'm cheating—this isn't exactly a "music book." The Slits guitarist already documented her brief punk career and its aftermath in her brilliant 2014 memoir, *Clothes, Clothes, Clothes. Music, Music, Music. Boys, Boys, Boys*, which you should read immediately before you do anything else. I'll wait. Finished? OK, then, on to round two, which recounts her mother's death and explores her parents' past from an unsentimental (but not cynical) and analytical (but not distant) perspective, while keenly observing the power dynamics of family and how allegiances between relatives shift over time.

Wasn't That a Time: The Weavers, the Blacklist, and the Battle for the Soul of America

By Jesse Jarnow

As he demonstrated on his journey through the '60s and beyond, *Heads: A Biography of Psychedelic America*, Jarnow has a gift for remapping historical terrain you thought you knew every feature of already. This time it's the folk movement of the '40s and '50s and the scourge of McCarthyism he brings vividly to life. Now I'm looking forward to reading what he discovers next time—about the '30s, the '20s, the '10s....

We Are the Clash: Reagan, Thatcher, and the Last Stand of a Band That Mattered

By Ralph Heibutzki

There's no shortage of books about the Clash, but Heibutzki may be the first champion of the band's maligned twilight years. He not only finds heroism in Joe Strummer's decision to persist after Mick Jones and Topper Headon left the band, but also provides insight into a political moment whose repercussions continue to shape our own.

Women Who Rock: Bessie to Beyoncé, Girl Groups to Riot Grrrl

Evelyn McDonnell, editor

You may have noticed a few male names on this list. Too many male names, probably. Well, here's an oasis for when you've heard enough from opinionated men. McDonnell, who edited the pioneering 1995 collection of female music writing *Rock She Wrote*, hit up some of the best women writing about music today for 104 essays that discuss female musicians, not all of whom "rock" in the loud guitars and booming drums sense. Essential. **G**

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Every year the bird known as the Arctic tern experiences two summers and enjoys more daylight than any other animal. That's because it regularly makes a long-distance journey from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again. Let's designate this hardy traveler as your inspirational creature for the next eleven months. May it help animate you to experiment with brave jaunts that broaden and deepen your views of the world. I don't necessarily mean you should literally do the equivalent of circumnavigating the planet. Your expansive adventures might take place mostly in inner realms or closer to home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When the American Civil War began in 1861, the United States fractured. Four years later, the union was technically restored when the northern states defeated the southern states. At that time, African American slavery became illegal everywhere for the first time since the country's birth decades earlier. But there was a catch. The southern states soon enacted laws that mandated racial segregation and ensured that African Americans continued to suffer systematic disadvantages. Is there a comparable issue in your personal life? Did you at some time in the past try to fix an untenable situation only to have it sneak back in a less severe but still debilitating form? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to finish the reforms; to enforce a thorough and permanent correction.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Does an elusive giant creature with a long neck inhabit the waters of Loch Ness in northern Scotland? Alleged sightings have been reported since 1933. Most scientists dismiss the possibility that "Nessie" actually exists, but there are photos, films, and videos that provide tantalizing evidence. A government-funded Scottish organization has prepared contingency plans just in case the beast does make an unambiguous appearance. In that spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I recommend that you prepare yourself for the arrival in your life of intriguing anomalies and fun mysteries. Like Nessie, they're nothing to worry about, but you'll be better able to deal gracefully with them if you're not totally taken by surprise.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Does moss really "eat" rocks, as Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert attests in her novel *The Signature of All Things*? Marine chemist Martin Johnson says yes. Moss really does break down and release elements in solid stone. Gilbert adds, "Given enough time, a colony of moss can turn a cliff into gravel, and turn that gravel into topsoil." Furthermore, this hardy plant can grow virtually everywhere: in the tropics and frozen wastes, on tree bark and roofing slate, on sloth fur and snail shells. I propose that we make moss your personal symbol of power for now, Cancerian. Be as indomitable, resourceful, and resilient as moss.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let's shout out a big "THANKS!" and "HALLELUJAH!" to the enzymes in our bodies. These catalytic proteins do an amazing job of converting the food we eat into available energy. Without them, our cells would take forever to turn any particular meal into the power we need to walk, talk, and think. I bring this marvel to your attention, Leo, because now is a favorable time to look for and locate metaphorical equivalents of enzymes: influences and resources that will aid and expedite your ability to live the life you want to live.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Every dreamer knows that it is entirely possible to be homesick for a place you've never been to, perhaps more homesick than for familiar ground," writes author Judith Thurman. I'm guessing you will experience this feeling in the coming weeks. What does it mean if you do? It may be your deep psyche's way of nudging you to find an energizing new sanctuary. Or perhaps it means you should search for fresh ways to feel peaceful and well-grounded. Maybe it's a prod to push you outside your existing comfort zone so you can expand your comfort zone.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Venice, Italy consists of 118 small islands that rise from a shallow lagoon. A network of 443 bridges keeps them all connected. But Venice isn't the world champion of bridges. The American city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania holds that title, with 446. I nominate these two places to be your inspirational symbols in the coming weeks. It's time for you build new metaphorical bridges and take good care of your existing metaphorical bridges.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To aid and support your navigation through this pragmatic phase of your astrological cycle, I have gathered counsel from three productive pragmatists. First is author Helen Keller. She said she wanted to accomplish great and noble things, but her "chief duty" was "to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." Second, author George Orwell believed that "to see what is in front of one's nose" requires never-ending diligence. Finally, author Pearl S. Buck testified that she didn't wait around until she was in the right mood before beginning her work. Instead, she invoked her willpower to summon the necessary motivation.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Blackjack is a card game popular in gambling casinos. In the eternal struggle to improve the odds of winning big money, some blackjack players work in teams. One teammate secretly counts the cards as they're dealt and assesses what cards are likely to come up next. Another teammate gets subtle signals from his card-counting buddy and makes the bets. A casino in Windsor, Ontario pressed charges against one blackjack team, complaining that this tactic was deceptive and dishonest. But the court decided in the team's favor, ruling that the players weren't cheating but simply using smart strategy. In the spirit of these blackjack teams, Sagittarius, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to better your odds in a "game" of your choice by using strategy that is almost as good as cheating but isn't actually cheating.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What has become of the metaphorical seeds you planted during the weeks after your last birthday? Have your intentions flourished? Have your dreams blossomed? Have your talents matured? Have your naive questions evolved into more penetrating questions? Be honest and kind as you answer these inquiries. Be thoughtful and big-hearted as you take inventory of your ability to follow through on your promises to yourself. If people are quizzical about how much attention you're giving yourself as you take stock, inform them that your astrologer has told you that December is Love Yourself Better Month.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you want to play the drinking game called Possum, you and your friends climb up into a tree with a case of beer and start drinking. As time goes by, people get so hammered they fall out of the tree. The winner is the last one left in the tree. I hope you won't engage in this form of recreation anytime soon--nor in any other activity that even vaguely resembles it. The coming weeks should be a time of calling on favors, claiming your rewards, collecting your blessings, and graduating to the next level. I trust your policy will be: no trivial pursuits, no wasted efforts, no silly stunts.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In his song "Happy Talk," Academy Award-winning lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II offered this advice: "You gotta have a dream. If you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?" Where do you stand in this regard. Pisces? Do you in fact have a vivid, clearly defined dream? And have you developed a strategy for making that dream come true? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to home in on what you really want and hone your scheme for manifesting it. (P.S. Keep in mind Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's idea: "A goal without a plan is just a wish.")

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10pm : ben cook-feltz,
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(album release),
loud sun, witch watch

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8pm : trivia mafia

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8pm : the roe family singers
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65				66							67			

GOING PLACES

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Jazz singer Marlena
- 5 Serious contender
- 11 "The Neighborhood" channel
- 14 One saving the day
- 15 Tribe in the First Nations
- 16 Back-rub response
- 17 Spirit
- 18 "I'm outta here"

- 20 Gently tease
- 21 Reindeer's coat?
- 22 Fancy boats
- 23 Reduces to mush
- 25 Thriller author Dekker
- 28 CitiField pro
- 29 Musical based on Green Day songs
- 32 Price fig.?
- 33 Stamped
- 34 War god

- 35 Historian Preston
- 37 Wounded in the bullring
- 39 Capt.'s deck aide
- 40 Fall in with
- 44 Unicorn's debut, briefly
- 45 Erythrocytes, more commonly
- 49 Actor/director Vincent
- 51 Musician's skill
- 52 R-rated
- 53 Galaxy missives
- 55 Palindromic relative
- 57 Award for Emma Thompson

- 58 Robin Hood's buddy, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 61 German automaker
- 62 Small bill
- 63 Spotted wildcat
- 64 Apothecary item
- 65 Married
- 66 "I haven't heard anything" actress Torv

Down

- 1 Mountain guide
- 2 It can raise your voice
- 3 Suitable for farming
- 4 Came out on top
- 5 Quantum physics pioneer Niels
- 6 Worked up
- 7 Some appliances
- 8 Code sound
- 9 Singer/reality TV star Aubrey
- 10 Dan Fogelman's musical comedy fairy tale series
- 11 Sweater material
- 12 Like fish sticks and chicken-fried steak
- 13 Some ginger ales
- 19 Unfriendly
- 21 Like kimchi
- 24 Image handler
- 26 School address part
- 27 Insult
- 30 Fox News personality Owens

- 31 "Puh-lease!"
- 34 Packing a piece
- 35 "Feel-good" neurotransmitter
- 36 Cut off
- 38 Seal eaters
- 39 "The Hurt Locker" director
- 41 Poem said with a lyre, perhaps
- 42 Thunder grp.
- 43 Nightclub entertainment
- 45 Antiperspirant type
- 46 Group together
- 47 Flannel catalog company
- 48 Belgian beer, for short
- 50 ____ AF (extremely awesome)
- 54 Like Rioja wine
- 56 Chief takeaways: Abbr.
- 59 Comedian Kirkman
- 60 FC Barcelona cheer
- 61 Oologists' studies

Last Week's Answer

M	O	T	I	O	N		P	B	S		V	A	T
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Shake That Moody

I'm bipolar. Does this put me at risk for risky sex?



Dan Savage

I'm a 30-year-old, Asian American, hetero-flexible cis woman. I'm also newly diagnosed with bipolar II. I'm on medication—the doctor is trying to figure that out—but no talk therapy for right now, as my last therapist wasn't great and I haven't managed to find a new one. My question for you is regarding the relationship between bipolar and kink. One of the common symptoms of the manic stage of bipolar is “risky sex.” I equate risk with “likely to blow up one's personal or professional life” and have always answered “no” to that question when asked by doctors. I've had the occasional hookup, but otherwise I've consistently had sex in the context of closed, monogamous relationships, i.e., the opposite of risky sex. However, it recently occurred to me that I'm fairly kinky (BDSM, role-play). Nothing I'd consider a varsity-level kink, but what do I know? I have out-there fantasies that are varsity-level, but I've never done them. Am I just bipolar and kinky? Are the two related somehow? Should I be concerned that I'll go into a manic state and start enacting (or trying to enact) some of the varsity-level fantasies in my head?

KINKY AND BIPOLAR

P.S. I asked my doctor this via email, but I haven't heard back yet and have no idea how sex-positive he is. So I thought I'd get a second opinion.

P.P.S. I'm currently manic enough that it's hard for me to edit, so there may be weird/confusing shit in my letter. Sorry for that!

“I'd like to congratulate KAB for seeking help and for the work she's doing to get stable,” said Ellen Forney, author of *Rock Steady: Brilliant Advice from My Bipolar Life*, an award-winning self-help guide to maintaining stability, and the best-selling graphic memoir *Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo & Me*. “I'd also like to welcome KAB to BIPOLAR! Toot! Toot! Confetti!”

The specific manic-stage symptom you're concerned about—engaging in super risky sex—is called “hypersexuality,” and it's what happens when the extremely poor judgment match meets the supercharged libido gas.

“But it's only ‘hypersexuality’ when it gets in the way of a reasonably well-functioning life,” said Forney. “Picture masturbating all day instead of going to work, or having relationship-wrecking affairs.”

If your diagnosis is correct and you have bipolar II and not bipolar I, you may be less susceptible to out-of-control hypersexuality.

“Strictly speaking, a bipolar II diagnosis means she cycles between ‘hypomania’ (mild mania) and depression,” said Forney, “so her highs aren't going to be as acute as they would be for someone with bipolar I, where hypersexuality can really get dangerous.”

Forney warns that misdiagnoses are not uncommon. But your long-standing kinks aren't necessarily related to your condition, KAB, and so long as they're safely expressed and explored, you aren't doing anything unreasonably risky or wrong.

“Kinky sex in itself doesn't count as symptom-worthy risky sex—no matter what her doctor emails back,” said Forney. “Like for anyone else, there's nothing necessarily wrong with feeling uninhibited enough to pursue varsity-level kinks, so long as they're not putting her or anyone else in danger. Ultimately, KAB's goal is to be stable enough to trust her judgment. For now, she might weigh the risks while she's feeling stable, so she can make some level-headed decisions about what might or might not be too risky.”

Forney also recommends having a discussion with your partners and friends about what your limits are—a discussion you'll want to have when you're not horny or manic or both.

“That way, they can help her recognize if she's crossing her own lines,” said Forney.

P.S. If your doctor won't answer your sex questions—or only gives you unhelpful, sex-negative, kink-shaming answers—find yourself a new doctor.

P.P.S. There are letters I have to read three times to figure out what the fuck is going on. Your letter was as lucid as it was charming.

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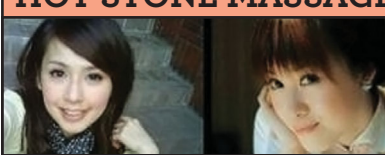
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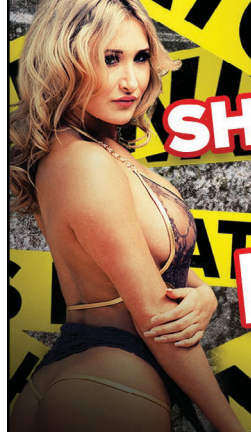
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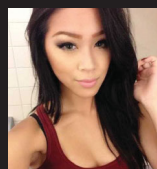
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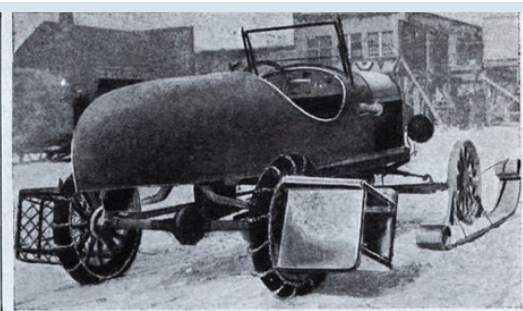
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